

Cultural implications of traditional versus modern medicine for the medical interpreter

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The **importance** of understanding traditional and modern medicine for medical interpreter

- The rising population of recent immigrants to U.S.
- The increasing diversity of culture and ethnicity of our society
- The increased interaction between medical and healthcare professionals among various nations

The importance of understanding traditional and modern medicine for medical interpreter

- The rising population of recent immigrants to U.S.

Traditional immigrants: from Europe

New immigrants: from Far East, South America and other continents

The importance of understanding traditional and modern medicine for medical interpreter

- The increasing diversity of culture and ethnicity of our society

18% Latinos

15% African Americans

5% Asians

Nearly 40% of the U.S. population are non-European

The importance of understanding traditional and modern medicine for medical interpreter

- The increased interaction between medical and healthcare professionals among various nations

Increased communication: internet, etc

Increased trade: 1 in every 5 American jobs depend on foreign trade

Traditional versus modern medicine

East versus West



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Eastern medicine – an example of traditional medicine



- Herbs, acupuncture, chi-gong, etc
- Emphasizes maintenance and prevention
- Seeks relationship between various parts of human body and function
- Look at the overall balance and homeostasis of a human being
- Places mind-body interaction at the heart of wellbeing and healthcare

Western medicine asks...

If a hole develops in a net, how can we repair it (through surgery, etc)?

But Eastern medicine asks...

Why there is a hole, *to begin with*? How can we build a stronger net to begin with?



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Western medicine asks...

How many surgeries have been performed
in this communities this year?



But Eastern medicine asks...

How few surgeries do we have to provide the population this year?

How can we improve the quality of health of the people through maintenance and prevention, so there are less number of patients who get sick *to begin with*?

Western medicine believes that...

The cause of an illness can be broken down and traced to ever smaller and smaller unit (bacteria, virus, cells, genes), and thus treatment of these individual small units should lead to cure of an overall illness of a human being.



But Eastern medicine believes that...

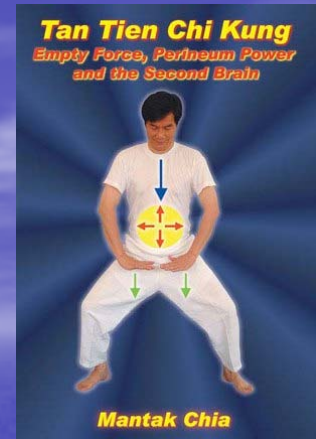
Looking at individual trees, one can never understand the behavior of a forest. It is not about how small that we can break each unit of human existence, it is about how large a picture that we can look at an human being as a whole. Studying the relationship between various human body parts, coordination and regulation among them, lies in the core of human wellbeing.

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Western medicine ...

Separates minds and body, the mental and anatomical, the spiritual and physical.

But Eastern medicine...



Combines the minds and body, the mental and anatomical, the spiritual and physical. Believes that more important than each individual parts, is the relationship, the balance and interaction between the various parts of a human being.

An interesting observation of the 21st century modern medicine

As modern (western) medicine drives the study to ever smaller and smaller unit (cells, genes, mutations), paradoxically and unexpected, we are realizing more (NOT less) relationship and coordination between various human body parts and function, and between mind and body.

How medicine is actually practiced in Eastern and Western medicine

- History
- Physical
- Assessment
- Treatment

How medicine is actually practiced in Eastern and Western medicine

- History

Western: prior surgeries, treatments

Eastern: events in a patient's life, stress level, balance and imbalance



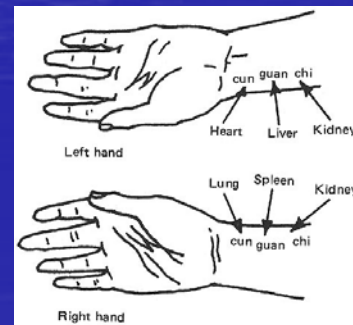
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How medicine is actually practiced in Eastern and Western medicine

- Physical

Western: EKG, blood chemistry, etc

Eastern: overall look of a person, "Chi", energy level, pulse strength, examination of the tongue, etc

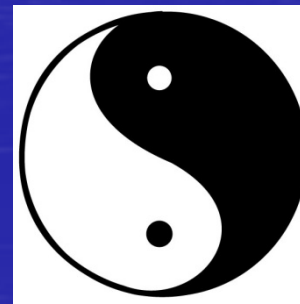


How medicine is actually practiced in Eastern and Western medicine

- Assessment

Western: a bone fracture, diabetes, HTN

Eastern: dis-regulation, off-balance, Ying,
Yang



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How medicine is actually practiced in Eastern and Western medicine

Treatment

Western: antibiotics, surgical repair of a fracture

Eastern: herb medicine, chi-gong, to build overall strength and balance, and boost one's own immune system to fight infection.



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What are the advantages then, of western medicine today

- Fast developing
- Lends itself readily to the adaptation to new technologies (computers, communications, electronics)
- It has transformed our lives

Examples of new development in Western medicine - ophthalmology

- **3D LASIK** – 3D image-guided high-definition LASIK
- **3D cataract surgery** – with the premium Forever Young Lenses
- Breakthrough new surgery **to reverse aging**
- **Artificial organs** – man-made body parts

Examples of new development in Western medicine

- **3D LASIK** – 3D image-guided high-definition LASIK

5/27/11, the **world's first 3D LASIK** was performed here in Nashville at Wang Vision Cataract & LASIK Center



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The world's first 3D image-guided high-definition LASIK



Instead of traditional microscope with its limited resolution, **3D image-guided high-definition LASIK** allows the surgeon to achieve more precise laser focusing using higher definition, stereoscopic microsurgical technology.

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Examples of new development in Western medicine - ophthalmology

- **3D cataract surgery** – with the premium Forever Young Lenses

Premium **Forever Young Lens**, restores a full range of vision (distance AND near) and corrects astigmatism

TN's first 3D cataract surgery: 6/2/11.

Five focusing zones for a full range of vision

Low light/distance-dominant zone

Provides additional distance-dominant support in low light conditions, such as driving at night, when pupils are dilated.

Bright light/distance-dominant zone

Supports bright/distance conditions, such as driving in daylight, when pupils are constricted.

Near-dominant zone

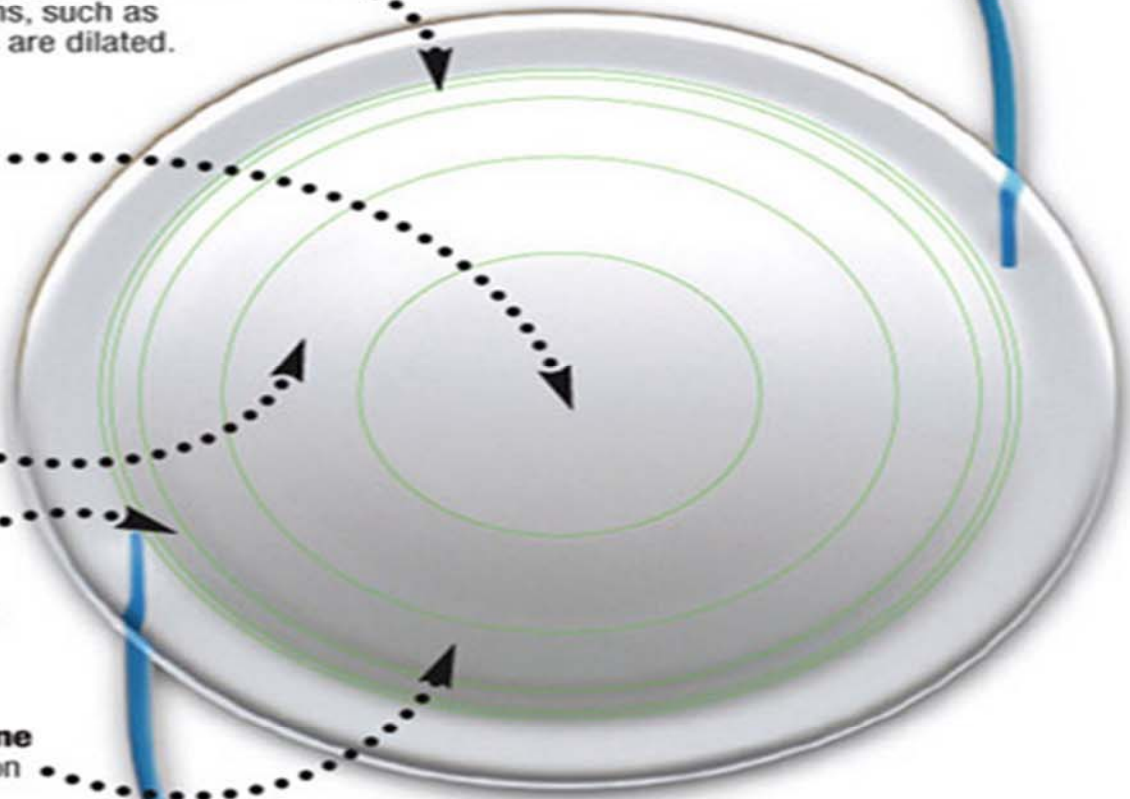
Provides additional near vision in a broad range of moderate to low light conditions.

Near-dominant zone

Provides good near vision in a range of light conditions.

Distance/intermediate zone

Supports good distance vision in moderate to low light conditions.



**Wang Vision Cataract & LASIK Cetner
Forever Young Lens**

TN's first 3D image-guided high-definition cataract surgery



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Four key points about cataract

- Cataract surgery is performed at earlier stages of the disease than in the past.
- Cataract surgery now has the new technology (premium Forever Young Lens).
- Only 5% of the cataract surgeons implant these new lenses in majority of patients (95% at WVI).
- There will be cut in MediCare and also other insurance plans' coverage for cataract surgery.

Examples of new development in Western medicine in ophthalmology

- Breakthrough new surgery to **reverse aging**



U.S. FDA clinical trial, to treat age-related loss of near vision (presbyopia)

50-60 yo,

\$10,000 surgery is free of charge, to study patients

Three centers in the U.S. (NY, Chicago, Nashville)

Examples of new development in Western medicine

- Artificial organs – man-made body parts

Artificial lenses: premium Forever Young Lens

Artificial retina: for macular degeneration

Artificial cornea: for trauma/infection caused blindness

International charity medical care

- 40 states in US and 55 countries;
- All physicians donate our services.



Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration
www.wangfoundation.com

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The Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration Presents...
the 6th Annual

Eye Ball

From Darkness to Sight



East and West medicine, the best of both worlds...



- Understanding the strength and weakness in both
- Combine them, and individualize the treatment to each patient, and use both tools
- Medical interpreter: understand the cultural background and characteristics of each patients, so one can establish more emotional connection with a patients, and do a better job in medical interpretation and communication, and have fun while doing it!

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